

CLAIMS

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1. A transaction card assembly comprising:
a transaction card having a long edge and a short edge that is shorter than the long edge, the transaction card configured to meet ANSI and ISO specifications; and
5 at least one auxiliary member attached in an edge-to-edge fashion at a long edge of the transaction card.
 2. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a machine readable feature on transaction card near a side opposite the auxiliary member.
 - 10 3. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a line of weakness between the transaction card and the at least one auxiliary member.
 4. The assembly of claim 3, wherein the transaction card and the at least one
15 auxiliary member are formed from a same sheet of material, and the line of weakness is a scoring of the material between the transaction card and the at least one auxiliary member.
 5. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the transaction card has an
20 approximately rectangular shape.
 6. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the at least one auxiliary member includes a portion having an approximately rectangular shape and is approximately the same size as the transaction card.
 - 25 7. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the portion of the auxiliary member includes a hole formed through the portion.
 8. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the portion of the auxiliary member
30 includes an area for applying a handwritten message to the portion.
 9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the transaction card is a gift card.

10. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one auxiliary member includes at least one of a coupon portion, an advertisement portion, and a key tag.

5 11. The assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member includes a machine-readable feature.

12. The assembly of claim 11, wherein the machine-readable feature is a magnetic strip.

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13. The assembly of claim 12, wherein the magnetic strip is fixed to the transaction card and meets ANSI and ISO specifications.

14. The assembly of claim 11, wherein the machine-readable feature is a barcode.

15. The assembly of claim 11, wherein the machine-readable feature is an electronic device.

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~~16~~. The assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member includes a label.

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~~16~~¹⁵
~~17~~. The assembly of claim ~~16~~¹⁵, wherein the label includes indicia that corresponds to indicia included on at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

18. The assembly of claim 17, wherein the label is adapted to be removed and adhered to another surface.

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~~19~~. The assembly of claim ~~18~~¹⁵, wherein the label obscures information on one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

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20. The assembly of claim ¹⁸19, wherein the label obscures a PIN number for a prepaid telephone account on one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

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21. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the transaction card includes a
5 magnetic strip that is encoded while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

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22. The assembly of claim ²⁰21, wherein at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member includes a label that is adhered and printed while the auxiliary
10 member is attached to the transaction card.

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23. The assembly of claim ²¹22, wherein at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member include a barcode that is printed while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

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24. The assembly of claim 1, wherein no auxiliary member is attached at a short edge of the transaction card.

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25. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the auxiliary member includes at least a
20 portion attached at a short edge of the transaction card.

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26. The assembly of claim ²⁴25, further comprising a machine readable feature positioned near a second long edge of the transaction card opposite the long edge, wherein the portion of the auxiliary member attached at a short edge of the transaction
25 card is set back from the second long edge.

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27. The assembly of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the auxiliary member is formed to function as a transaction card.

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28. A transaction card assembly comprising:
a transaction card having a machine-readable feature, a long edge and a short edge that is shorter than the long edge; and

at least one auxiliary member attached only at the long edge of the card.

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²⁹. The assembly of claim 28, wherein the machine-readable feature is a magnetic strip.

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³⁰. The assembly of claim 29, wherein the transaction card including the magnetic strip meets ANSI and ISO specifications.

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³¹. The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein the machine-readable feature is a barcode.

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³². The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member includes a removable label.

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³³. The assembly of claim ³⁰~~32~~, wherein the removable label includes indicia that corresponds to information contained in the machine-readable feature.

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³⁴. The assembly of claim ³¹~~33~~, wherein the label includes indicia that corresponds to indicia printed on at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

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³⁵. The assembly of claim 32, wherein the label is adapted to be removed and adhered to another surface.

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³⁶. The assembly of claim ³⁶~~32~~, wherein the label obscures information on one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

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³⁷. The assembly of claim ³⁴~~36~~, wherein the label obscures a PIN number for a prepaid telephone account on one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

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³⁸. The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein the auxiliary member includes:

an intermediate portion attached to the long edge of the transaction card in an edge-to-edge fashion; and

at least one of a key tag portion and a coupon portion attached to the intermediate portion.

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~~39~~. The assembly of claim ³⁶~~38~~, wherein the auxiliary member includes a key tag that has a machine-readable feature that includes information that corresponds to information stored in a machine-readable feature included on the transaction card.

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~~40~~. The assembly of claim ³⁶~~38~~, wherein the transaction card and the auxiliary member are formed from a same sheet of plastic material, and a line of weakness is formed between the transaction card and the intermediate portion.

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~~41~~. The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein the at least one auxiliary member is attached in an edge-to-edge fashion along the long edge of the transaction card.

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~~42~~. The assembly of claim ³⁹~~41~~, further comprising a line of weakness between the transaction card and the at least one auxiliary member.

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~~43~~. The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein the transaction card has an approximately rectangular shape.

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~~44~~. The assembly of claim ⁴¹~~43~~, wherein the at least one auxiliary member includes a portion having an approximately rectangular shape and is approximately the same size as the transaction card.

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~~45~~. The assembly of claim ⁴²~~44~~, wherein the portion of the auxiliary member includes a hole formed through the portion.

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~~46~~. The assembly of claim ⁴²~~44~~, wherein the portion of the auxiliary member includes an area for applying a handwritten message to the portion.

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~~47.~~ The assembly of claim ⁴⁴~~46~~, wherein the transaction card is a gift card.

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~~48.~~ The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein the at least one auxiliary member includes at least one of a coupon portion, an advertisement portion, and a key tag.

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~~49.~~ The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein the machine-readable feature is an electronic device.

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~~50.~~ The assembly of claim ²⁷~~28~~, wherein the machine readable feature is a
10 magnetic strip that is encoded while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

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~~51.~~ The assembly of claim ⁴⁸~~50~~, wherein at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member includes a label that is adhered and printed while the auxiliary
15 member is attached to the transaction card.

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~~52.~~ The assembly of claim ⁴⁹~~51~~, wherein at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member include a barcode that is printed while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

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~~53.~~ The assembly of claim ⁴⁴~~28~~, wherein the assembly includes one of a gift card, a prepaid phone card, a frequent shopper card, a loyalty card and a membership card.

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~~54.~~ The assembly of claim ~~28~~, wherein at least a portion of the auxiliary member overlaps a portion of the transaction card along the long edge.

30 55. The assembly of claim ~~54~~, wherein the portion of the auxiliary member that overlaps a portion of the transaction card obscures information on the transaction card.

56. The assembly of claim ~~55~~⁵³, wherein the obscured information is a PIN number for a prepaid telephone account.

Sub Q5 } 57. A method for forming a transaction card assembly having a transaction card and at least one auxiliary member, comprising:
providing a single sheet of material;
cutting at least a transaction card and an auxiliary member from the sheet of material so that the transaction card has a long edge and a short edge shorter than the long edge and so that the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card only along a long edge of the transaction card; and
providing a machine-readable feature on at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

58. The method of claim 57, further comprising:
providing a line of weakness between the transaction card and the auxiliary member.

~~59~~⁵³. The method of claim ~~57~~⁵², further comprising:
forming a magnetic strip on at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member; and
encoding the magnetic strip while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

~~60~~⁵⁴. The method of claim ~~59~~⁵³, further comprising:
adhering a label to at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

~~61~~⁵⁵. The method of claim ~~60~~⁵⁴, further comprising:
printing information on the label on at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

~~62~~⁵⁶. The method of claim ~~61~~⁵⁵, further comprising:

printing a barcode on at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary member while the auxiliary member is attached to the transaction card.

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~~63~~. The method of claim ⁵²~~57~~, wherein the step of cutting at least the
5 transaction card and the auxiliary member comprises:
cutting so that the transaction card has an approximately rectangular shape.

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~~64~~. The method of claim ⁶⁷~~63~~, wherein the step of cutting comprises:
cutting so that the auxiliary member includes a portion having an approximately
10 rectangular shape and is approximately the same size as the transaction card.

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~~65~~. The method of claim ⁵⁸~~64~~, further comprising:
forming a hole in the auxiliary member.

15 ~~66. The method of claim ⁵⁸~~64~~, further comprising:
forming an area on the auxiliary member adapted to receive a handwritten
message.~~

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~~67~~. The method of claim ⁵²~~57~~, wherein the step of cutting comprises:
20 cutting so that the auxiliary member includes at least one of a coupon portion, an
advertisement portion, and a key tag.

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~~68~~. The method of claim ⁵²~~57~~, wherein the step of providing the machine-
readable feature comprises:
25 forming a magnetic strip on at least one of the transaction card and the auxiliary
member.

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~~69~~. The method of claim ⁶²~~68~~, wherein the step of forming the magnetic strip
comprises:
30 forming the magnetic strip so that the magnetic strip meets ANSI and ISO
specifications.

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wherein the step of cutting comprises cutting a plurality of transaction card assemblies from the sheet so no auxiliary member is attached along a short edge of the transaction cards in the transaction card assemblies.

- 5 ⁷¹~~77~~ ⁷⁰ 77. The method of claim ~~76~~, wherein the step of providing a machine-readable feature comprises encoding the magnetic strip with information for a plurality of transaction card assemblies.

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⁹⁰ 10 ~~78. A transaction card assembly comprising:
two transaction cards each having a magnetic strip and meeting ANSI and ISO specifications that are joined along short edges of the transaction cards.~~

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